

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

INNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530
AREA CODE 316
SW 3-5423

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) in a speech to the First International Agribusiness Conference in Chicago today, emphasized the impact of world food need and agricultural exports on the American farmer.

In his remarks, Dole pointed out 3 major points that will materially affect the American farmer; first, the food aid program operated under P.L. 480; second, the opportunities for expanded agricultural technical assistance; and, third, the necessity for fair farm prices.

Dole said, "U.S. food aid under the Food For Peace program should not be limited to a surplus disposal operation, but rather it should be structured on the purchase of food and food products in the market place the same as other products purchased under the U. S. foreign assistance programs. To achieve this, Congress should appropriate funds for food aid as it now appropriates funds for other foreign assistance programs. In addition, commodities to be shipped under food aid arrangements should be purchased through regular market channels.

"Such a program would be based on a free enterprise agriculture geared to a market system and provide the economic climate which would encourage American farmers to meet the challenge of a hungry world. There would be no need to use the Commodity Credit Corporation to finance such a program; there would be no reason to charge the Department of Agriculture for the cost of such a program. This would be a food-aid program based on what the people of recipient countries need and could use effectively. It would not be surplus disposal. It would be designed to meet humanitarian and foreign policy objectives of the United States."

In commenting on expanded agricultural technical assistance, Dole plugged for his "farmer-to-farmer" program and pointed out that technical assistance programs are vital in any long range program of assisting developing nations. He said, "One of the greatest assets we have is our technical capability. This includes our agricultural sciences, our system of agricultural education, agricultural credit, marketing "know how", managerial capabilities, and our ideas of the inter-relationship between operating farmers, agribusiness firms, and government."

He added that fair farm prices were a necessity and that P.L. 480 (Food For Peace program) should be used to boost, not depress, domestic market prices. He proposed that CCC adopt a new policy in regard to unrestricted domestic sales of grain. "The time has come," Dole said, "in view of our current inventory levels, that CCC make no unrestrictive domestic sales for less than 100 percent of parity, and if this policy is not implemented administratively, it should be implemented legislatively."